

COMPETITION SCULPTURE.
ART UNION OF LONDON.

WITH a view to the production of a fine work of art, and to direct the attention of the public to sculpture, the Committee of the Art Union of London offered the sum of 500*l.* for a group or single figure in marble, to be competed for by finished models in plaster, the size of the intended work.

The models received in competition for this premium are now in the concert-room of the Princess's Theatre, Castle Street, Oxford Street, and are open to all who apply. Many of them possess great merit—two or three, merit of the highest order, and the exhibition is altogether exceedingly interesting; still it seems to us that the English sculptors have scarcely responded to the praiseworthy and liberal offer of the Committee, to the extent that might have been expected.

It is unnecessary for us to say that the stake is a high one—not simply 500*l.*, but a widely-spread reputation.

Nearly half the score sent in have been exhibited before, including, as we believe, No. 3. "Tallies in Pen Belrdd;" 4. "The Contest between the Minstrel and the Nightingale;" 7. "Chariot;" 11. "Hagar and Ishmael;" 13. "Pastoral Apollo;" 14. "A Youth at a Stream;" 15. "Group of Adam and Eve lamenting the death of Abel;" 16. "Narcissus;" and 19. "A Hunter returned home." Looking at the terms of the advertisement and the intention of the offer ("to induce the production of a fine work of art"), we may venture to say the selection will not be made from these.

Of No. 9. "A Deer-stalker in pursuit" (an admirable group, demanding the attention of those who have to decide), there is a cast in the present Royal Academy Exhibition. We understand, however, evidence is offered that it was prepared expressly for the competition.

Let us glance briefly at those about which there is no doubt.

No. 1. "A Girl persuading Cupid to shoot at one she loves," embodies a pretty notion,—the half-willing, half-hesitating Cupid is well conceived and well executed. A meanness in the figure of the girl lessens the value of the group; 2. "Iris ascending" is a work of great excellence; the lower limbs are beautiful; 5. "Maternal Affection;" 6. "Sleep" (a sister and brother); and 18. "The Centaur instructing Chiron," have each points of excellence; 8. "Dancing Girl reclining" is a powerful competitor for the prize. The lower part of the figure is too heavy for its title; nevertheless it is an exquisite production, honourable to the country.

10. "Innocence" may justly stand in rivalry with the last. The subject is a young girl seated, clasping a dove to her neck. The author of this will stand in the first rank of English sculptors, if he be not there already.

12. "Genius receiving the Reward of Merit," displays much ability, and has barely escaped being a fine work. The idea is conveyed by a youth who is placing the crown on his own head—a doubtful position.

17. "The Meeting of Hero and Leander" has many faults, but gives good promise; and 20. "L'Allegro," though pictorial rather than sculptural, has much grace.

CAUTION TO RAILWAY SURVEYORS.

SIR,—I beg once more to occupy a place in your valuable journal, to show up a new system of railway fraud, as practised by a Mr. England, living at No. 11, Queen's-road, Bermondsey. It appears, he put an advertisement into the *Times*, in the beginning of last month, stating that he wanted eight or ten railway surveyors' assistants, and many there were who answered it. However, upon an interview being appointed, he stated that he wanted from each assistant two guineas, one to be paid there and then, and the other out of the first week's salary (which was to be four guineas per week). He subsequently desired all the assistants to meet him last Monday evening, at six o'clock, at a coffee-house in the city. He came there with his portmanteau at five o'clock, and after persuading the landlord to pay him one guinea, and let him take his son out with him, left under some pretence, and has never returned. A warrant was applied for, but could not be obtained, on account of his having actually been employed on a *bona-fide* line of

railway at the time he put in the advertisement, so that they must all calmly submit to lose their money. If, Sir, you would either insert this, or expose Mr. England in some other way, you would oblige your constant reader, VERITAS.

8, Cadogan-street, Chelsea, 8th July, 1846.

PROVINCIAL NEWS.

THE healthy contagion of the sanatory influence has "broken out" at Ipswich, where the inefficient cleansing and drainage of the streets and houses, the prevalence of open cess-pools and burial places within the precincts, and the want of an abundant household supply of water, are at present forcing themselves into public notice. A general system of sewerage is under consideration, as (at least it ought to be) but an initiative and partial remedy. The *Ipswich Journal* is very properly pointing attention to the other and even more particularly necessary measures; and salutarily reminds its readers of "the noxious effluvia emitted when the corner of St. Peter's churchyard was rounded off," and of the state of the churchyard at St. Mary Kee, the deserted churchyard of St. Lawrence, and indeed of every churchyard in the town. We would recommend to the attention of the editors the proposals of Mr. Parry, in recent number of *THE BUILDER*, for the institution of joint-parochial cemeteries.

—Energetic means, in the shape of 30,000*l.*, have been placed at the disposal of the Leeds Street Committee, by the town council, for the formation of an efficient system of sewerage there.—On Friday week the new church at Morton, near Gainsborough, and on the following day the Stockwith Church, in the same vicinity, was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln. Both have had stained glass windows provided by gift.—The journeymen plasterers of Huddersfield have struck work for an advance of wages 6*d.* a day, making 2*s.* to 2*s.* a week. The masters are determined to resist.—The Bricklayers of York, too, have struck for a similar advance.—It appears that the chapel of the episcopal palace of Ripon, noticed in our last, is to be erected at the sole expense of the Archbishop of York for the use of an adjacent hamlet, as well as of the bishop and his household.—The foundation-stone of the Monastery of Holy Trinity, to be erected near Market Weighton, in Yorkshire, as a normal and boys' school, was laid or blessed by the vicar-apostolic of the district on the 24th ult.—A new Gothic decorated window has been added to Royston Church.—It is said that in the churchyard of St. Helen's, Worcester, upwards of 1,100 bodies have been buried within the last thirty years in a space of only 300 square yards.—A paving rate of 2*s.* per pound has been ordered at Birmingham to meet the expense (about 30,000*l.*) of the improved culverts in course of formation in the town. The evidence of twelve parties resident there having been obtained in favour of the practicability of consuming smoke and at the same time saving fuel; the Street Act Committee recommend the commissioners at once to "compel every owner of a steam-engine to consume his own smoke."—The last stone of the Branch Bank of England at Manchester was laid on Tuesday week.—At Liverpool, there are to be two holidays during Prince Albert's visit. The plans of Mr. Cunningham, Architect, for the arrangement of the spectators on the intended site of the Sailors' Home, are well spoken of. The steam-boat owners not consuming their own smoke on the river, are to be requested to burn coke on the two gala days.—The Liverpool Church Building Society have voted that a subscription be now entered into for the purpose of raising a fund to build churches in the new districts of the parish of Liverpool assigned by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under the 6th and 7th Vict.—Herefordshire, it is said, is the only English county in which there is not one steam-engine.—In the public works in Ireland, 14,000 men are employed at the public cost.—The sum of 20,000*l.* has been bequeathed by the late Mrs. Magee, of Dublin, for the erection of a Presbyterian College in Ireland.—In a number of cases of loss of life through bathing in rivers, ponds, and canals, collected from the provincial papers, the verdict of the coroners' jury, it is said, "has been in every instance,

'Accidental Death;' the *Daily News* says, should it not have been 'Drowned for want of safe and proper bathing places?'"

CONSECRATION OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH—LONGSIGHT.

THE church newly-erected at Longsight, near Manchester, has lately been consecrated. It was noticed under the head of "Architecture and Art in Manchester," in our last volume. It was commenced in March, 1845, by Mr. Hunt, builder, of Broughton, from designs by Mr. J. E. Grogan, architect. It is in the early English style of architecture; and consists of a chancel, nave, and aisles; a south porch, and a tower and spire at the south-west angle. The east windows of the chancel and the south aisles, are filled with stained glass, made by Mr. Willement, of London. The glass in the chancel window is the gift of Miss Marshall, and contains representations of a number of the saints. That in the aisle window is the joint gift of Miss Marshall, and her brother, Mr. William Marshall. The church contains rather more than 700 sittings, one-half of which are free.

The *Manchester Guardian*, from which we take the account, has the following judicious comments:—"It ought, in justice to the architect, to be stated, that this church is by no means carried out according to his original designs and intentions; for the successive alterations and enlargements which he was, from time to time, called upon to make, have, as might have been expected, thrown the building out of proportion, and given to it a shortened appearance, very different from any thing in the plan as first adopted. Changes made in a design after the commencement of the building are always dangerous, and are among the severest misfortunes which architects are subject to; that nice and delicate adjustment of parts, which an artist deems essential to the perfection of his work, is but seldom taken into consideration by those who have it in their power to interfere with it; and thus an architect is often blamed for that which he could not avoid, and which he laments more than any one else is likely to do, from his more intimate acquaintance with the cause of the failure. It seems that the entire clerestory was an after-thought; added to a building originally designed to be without it; and the tower and spire are diminutive and insignificant in dimensions from the simple fact of the church having out-grown them, they being part of the small plan on which the church was begun.

The temporary causes of such changes pass away and are forgotten, the building remains.

FUND FOR MR. GEORGE MOORE.

THE DRAUGHTSMAN.

THE subscriptions in aid of the unfortunate George Moore, now in a state of imbecility, and for whom we appealed to our readers some time ago, amount to 500*l.*, and will be invested in such manner as the trustees may think most eligible.

Mr. Cockerell, R.A., Mr. Edward Blore, and Mr. Francis Moore (Mr. George Moore's brother), have consented to act in that capacity for the administration of this fund, which it is to be hoped, will be increased to a sufficient sum to obtain such comforts for him, as even those so peculiarly situated may be supposed to appreciate.

Mr. Wyatt, of 77, Great Russell-street, will gladly receive any additional contributions.

PERILS OF MINERS.—One of the most fearful mining calamities ever known occurred on the 9th, at East Wheel Rose lead mine, about eight miles from Truro. A thunder-storm of unprecedented violence, with a flood of the heaviest rain, broke over the neighbourhood. The torrents pouring from Newlyn Downs, collected towards the valley, where the mine is situated, and rushing down the shaft, filled every level. Forty-three persons were drowned.

NEW COURT OF EXCHEQUER.—On Monday workmen commenced operations at Guildhall for forming a new Court of Exchequer. To effect the improvement, the foundation walls of stone, nearly three feet thick, are being cut away, in part.